

Stream Team Annual Report



2016

promoting citizen
awareness and involvement
in river and stream conservation

Volunteers from the EBC Men's Ministry (Team 4718) tackled the Big River in St. Francois County and pulled 120 tires, showing great strength in small numbers.

A Summary of Stream Team Activities

The Stream Team Program continues to expand at a steady pace with the addition of 208 new Teams in 2016. This brings the total number of Teams to over 5,600 with over 4,400 still active statewide. 2016 also brought many obstacles for Teams across the state as Missouri suffered severe flooding in late December of 2015. Many of our volunteers were out in force assisting with disaster relief efforts which is reflected by the increase in volunteer hours reported for 2016. Our amazing volunteers logged more than 145,000 hours across the state. Here's a quick look at some other highlights from last year:

- ◆ 547 tons of trash was removed from Missouri's rivers and streams.
- ◆ 1,181 water quality monitoring trips were completed.
- ◆ 14,283 trees were planted.
- ◆ 677 storm drains were stenciled.
- ◆ 204 habitat improvement projects were completed.
- ◆ \$3.5 million worth of volunteer labor was dedicated.
- ◆ Stream Team Academy hosted workshops on Beginning Fly Fishing A-Z, Fish Identification, and Understanding Streams.

For the second year in a row, the Program was recognized with a prestigious national award when it received the Ernest Thompson Seton Award for leadership in promoting scientific wildlife management from the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). AFWA is known as the professional association which serves as the collective voice of North America's state, provincial, and territorial fish and wildlife agencies. The outstanding work of our volunteers year-round truly makes the Stream Team Program a great example of how Missourians value conservation and our natural resources.



Sherry Fischer accepts the Ernest Thompson Seton Award for leadership in promoting scientific wildlife management at the annual AFWA conference in Philadelphia, PA.



Stream Team is sponsored by:
Missouri Department of Conservation
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Conservation Federation of Missouri

Dedication & Enthusiasm

Water Quality Monitoring

Water quality monitors accomplished a great deal in 2016 on behalf of Missouri's streams. Enthusiastic volunteers across the state diligently collected water quality data throughout the year and made significant progress on our program goal to strengthen our monitoring network of volunteers. A total of 29 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring (VWQM) workshops were offered at locations throughout the state in 2016, and 253 new volunteers were trained to become water quality monitors. In addition, 90 current monitors attended training to collect data at the next level in the VWQM Program, 21 attended validations to maintain their current training level status, and 6 monitors took on Cooperative Stream Investigation (CSI) Projects.

Water Quality Monitoring Workshops	Number of Workshops	Number of Volunteers Trained
Introductory	11	253
Level 1	5	66
Level 2	4	23
Level 3	1	1
VWQM Validation	4	21
CSI Training	4	6
Total	29	370

A total of 1,178 citizen scientists reported 1,181 monitoring trips collecting biological, chemical, and physical data in 2016. Our tiered VWQM training structure allows increased flexibility of citizen involvement while increasing education and use of data collected at each level of training. These Stream Team workshops are structured to allow different levels of participation

so volunteers can determine how much time and effort they wish to put forth. Volunteers spent 5,820 hours collecting data for their streams.

Volunteers and other cooperators collected and analyzed data for three CSI projects and three Advanced Monitoring Projects (AMP). CSI projects were conducted on the Warm Fork Spring River (*E. coli* and discharge measurements); Dardenne Creek (*E. coli*); and Hamilton Creek (ammonia, total nitrogen, and total phosphorus). AMP projects were conducted on an unnamed tributary to Sni-a-Bar Creek (headwater stream permanence); an unnamed tributary to Little Paddy Creek (headwater stream permanence); and Dardenne Creek (evaluation of an *E. coli* screening method).

The water quality monitoring network continues to grow each year as people learn about the Program and decide to join forces in effort to promote watershed education and action for the streams of Missouri.



Another successful VWQM Introductory Workshop season is in the history books! This dedicated class toughed it out in the chilly temps with smiles at Babler State Park.



MDC Fisheries Management Biologist Nick Girondo shows Stream Teamers the fish species inhabiting Meramec State Park during the Stream Team Academy Fish ID workshop.

Stream Team Awards

The Stream Team Program annually recognizes deserving volunteers from each of the three coordinating regions of the state and a statewide Water Quality Monitoring Volunteer with the Stream Team Ambassador Award. The Ambassador Award recognizes volunteer accomplishments in the Program's three primary goals of education, stewardship, and advocacy. The 2016 recipients for activities conducted in 2015 were:

Stream Team Ambassador Awards

- ◆ **Richard, Silas & Grifen Whiteside**
Stream Team 4847 - Doniphan Neighborhood Stream Team
- ◆ **Laurie Ferretti**
Stream Team 211- "The Mighty" Arnold Stream Team 211 & Stream Team 5168 - League of Watershed Guardians
- ◆ **Melanie Cheney**
Stream Team 1875 - Missouri River Relief

VWQM Ambassador Award

- ◆ **Bob Virag**
Stream Team 5080 - The Creve Coeur Creekers



Gravois Creek Stream Team 3031 shows us proper net placement and kicking technique for sampling macroinvertebrates.

2016 Fast Facts

During 2016, Stream Teams . . .

- ◆ collected **547** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **14,283** trees
- ◆ stenciled **677** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **1,181** water monitoring trips
- ◆ gave **45** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **192** educational events
- ◆ reported **145,060** total volunteer hours

Respect

Activity	Participants	Hours	Units	Value*
Adopt-An-Access	8	8	8 agreements	\$193.12
Advocacy	11	14	6 events	\$337.96
Articles Written (newspaper, newsletter, etc.)	16	27	15 articles	\$651.78
Association Activities	36	211	11 events	\$5,093.54
Award Winners	54	53	15 awards	\$1,279.42
Display at Fairs, etc.	82	498	24 events	\$12,021.72
Educational Projects	6,536	25,914	192 events	\$625,563.96
Forestkeepers (Forest Monitoring)	19	316	10 trips	\$7,628.24
Habitat Improvement	1,860	4,750	204 projects	\$114,665.00
Letters (written in support of ST issue)	3	5	2 letters	\$120.70
Litter Pickups	21,225	95,933	547 tons of trash	\$2,315,822.62
Media Contacts	86	126	70 interviews	\$3,041.64
Mentoring	16	17	6 projects	\$410.38
Monofilament Recycling Project	4	4	24 ounces	\$96.56
Meetings (held or attended)	1,130	2,166.00	1,158 attendees	\$52,287.24
Other Miscellaneous Projects**	534	1,493	41 projects	\$36,041.02
Planted Trees	344	1,249	14,283 trees	\$30,150.86
Pre-activity Planning	284	828	175 projects	\$19,987.92
Photo Point Monitoring	19	28	187 photos	\$675.92
Presentations to Other Groups	1,032	1,271	45 presentations	\$30,681.94
Rain Garden/Barrel or Green Roof	123	269	68 projects	\$6,493.66
Recruitment (new members)	68	89	81 people	\$2,148.46
River Observation (possible pollution event)	2	2	1 projects	\$48.28
Stream Access Maintenance	56	117	15 projects	\$2,824.38
Storm Drain Stenciling	89	413	677 drains	\$9,969.82
Streambank Stabilization Projects	18	97	4 projects	\$2,341.58
Watershed Mapping	5	16	6	\$386.24
Workshops (attended or conducted)	403	3,276	403 attendees	\$79,082.64
Water Quality Monitoring	3,623	5,820	1,181 trips	\$140,494.80
Zebra Mussel Monitoring	31	50	6 trips	\$1,207.00
Totals	37,817	145,060		\$3,501,748.40

*\$23.56/hour is the current national wage rate for the estimated value of volunteer time (U.S. Dept. of Labor).

**Includes projects like website development, newsletters, scout programs, fundraising, etc.



It was another successful Shoal Creek cleanup in Newton County, hosted by Team 3714! More than half a ton was collected by 27 volunteers, including two septic tanks, part of a roll-off dumpster, and 12 tires.

Stash Your Trash

The Stash Your Trash Program targets trash on Missouri streams by providing litter bags to Missouri's float outfitters. In 2016, 156 float outfitters throughout the state participated in the Stash Your Trash Program, 100 of which offered discounts to Stream Team volunteers in the Stream Team Float Outfitters Discount Directory. Over 307,000 red mesh bags were provided to livery business owners to distribute to the public, preventing countless tons of trash from entering Missouri's recreational waterways. Over 35,000 red and green

mesh bags and 4,400 blue poly bags were provided to Stream Teams in their cleanup efforts.

**Over
\$3.5
million!**

27-year Fast Facts

Since 1989, Stream Teams have . . .

- ◆ collected **11,872** tons of trash
- ◆ planted **333,527** trees
- ◆ stenciled **18,845** storm drains
- ◆ conducted **29,484** water monitoring trips
- ◆ given **3,116** presentations to other groups
- ◆ completed **5,027** educational events
- ◆ reported **2,742,952** total volunteer hours



"Rockstar" pose after a big day rounding up tires at Ridgewood School. Photo by Sophie Cotton.

Accomplishment

What's To Come . . .

Stream Teams in 2017 will be seeing some changes to the Program including the addition of new staff and changes to existing staff responsibilities to best serve volunteer needs. A new Stream Team Academy workshop is in the works for the summer and new ideas are emerging to enhance the educational interests of our Teams in future years. Program staff are dedicated to improving the Stream Team website and online data reporting tools for convenience and efficiency, and social media continues to engage citizens with educational information, volunteer opportunities, and Team accomplishments.

Impressive teamwork efforts are growing among Teams to tackle special cleanup sites due to historic flooding as

new partnerships form for the worthy cause of clean water. Stream Teams United (formerly the Missouri Stream Team Watershed Coalition) is turning up the volume as your voice for clean water, and building off the success of the inaugural Paddle MO for a second paddling adventure on the Missouri River in 2017.

It's the volunteers caring for our rivers and streams that make Missouri the tourist destination it is today. Sharing knowledge, getting their feet wet, and leading by example are the attributes of Stream Team volunteers that make this one of the most successful volunteer programs in the nation, and we thank you for your commitment and dedication to clean water!

Stream Team Staff



Back row from left: Randy Sarver (DNR), Molly Runyon (DNR), Amy Meier (MDC), Karen Westin (DNR), Chris Riggert (MDC) and Jenna Stiek (MDC).

Front row from left: Lily Kennedy (MDC), April Williams (MDC), Sherry Fischer (MDC) and Kat Lackman (MDC)

Not shown: Robert Voss (DNR), Kelly Reinkemeyer (MDC), LuAnn Rockelman (MDC), and Mary Utrech (MDC)

Questions? Please contact us at:

1-800-781-1989 (voice mail)

streamteam@mdc.mo.gov or streamteam@dnr.mo.gov

www.mostreamteam.org

www.facebook.com/moststreamteams



The Pleasant Valley Panners (Team 5247) recruited 38 volunteers and pulled more than 500 pounds of trash from Shoal Creek in Clay County on their very first cleanup.



AT&T Stream Team 5141 pose proudly after cleaning up Big Sugar Creek in McDonald County.



Despite 40-degree temperatures and steady rainfall, more than 50 volunteers removed nearly a ton of trash, planted 50 native woodland plants, and removed about a quarter-acre of invasive bush honeysuckle in Cass County.



Who knew storm drain stenciling could be so much fun? These girl scouts from Fulton Stream Team (Team 5254) had a blast educating others about how stormwater flows directly to Stinson Creek.